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DOCKET NO: 242956US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
HIDEO YOSHIZAWA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: CHEN, S.  
SERIAL NO: 10/665,825 :  
FILED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2852  
FOR: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS :  
AND PROCESS CARTRIDGE FOR USE  
IN THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated October 21, 2004, Applicants elect with  
traverse the invention of group I, Claims 1-9, drawn to a flexible member.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can  
be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it  
on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or  
independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.  
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding requirement on the grounds  
that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on  
the Examiner.

Application No. 10/665,825  
Reply to Office Action of October 21, 2004

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-16 be conducted.

Customer Number

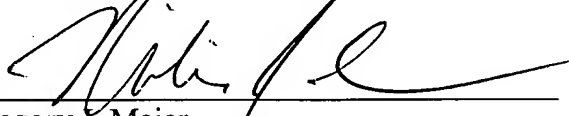
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Respectfully submitted,

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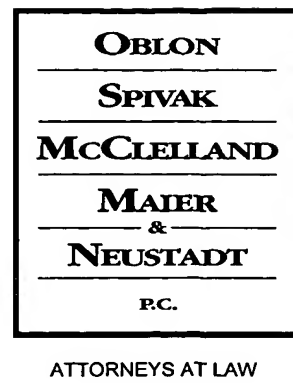
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Docket No.: 242956US2

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 10/665,825  
Applicants: Hideo YOSHIZAWA, et al.  
Filing Date: September 22, 2003  
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND PROCESS  
CARTRIDGE FOR USE IN THE SAME  
Group Art Unit: 2852  
Examiner: CHEN, S.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**  
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**LIST OF RELATED CASES**

Our check in the amount of **-\$0.00-** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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